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ORIAL P

Westbrook Pegler  
Bilbo Seems  
No More Evil  
Than His Foes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—IT WOULD be unfair to Harold L. Ickes and Joseph Guffey, until just now a Senator from Pennsylvania, to say that Senator Theodore Bilbo, of Mississippi, is less beloved of his brethren who jeered him out of town and on his way to the operating table. He is cheap and he is ornery, but Ickes confessed himself a miser and Guffey owed an income tax for years and years. Bilbo, at least, never pretended that he lived only to serve the common man, and he deserves a measure of respect for that. His worst fault, and his fatal one, was that he lacked the jovial grace of the late Pat Harrison, often elected in the same state of Mississippi and under the same laws, who enjoyed the friendship of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the respect of many of the same hypocrites who damned Bilbo.

THE laws and the system that Bilbo invoked had prevailed in Mississippi and other deep-South states since reconstruction. They were devised before he was born to assure the outnumbered and destitute planters that they would not again be governed and Jim-Crowed and taxed by the freedmen, and Bilbo neither wrote them nor changed them by so much as a comma. An oppressed minority had rebelled to become oppressors of a predatory majority and the Congressional hearings of the time revealed horrible persecution and exploitation of the beaten Southern rebels.

On the same ground, Mr. Byrnes, the resigning Secretary of State, might be repudiated, and the Bankheads of Alabama and hundreds of other Southern politicians, including some statesmen, and certainly including Senator Claude Pepper, of Florida, who finds himself in strange company among the New York Communists.

TEN years ago, in Pepper's state, at picking time, his constables and sheriffs practiced a system of peonage, and they were his constables and sheriffs, for he was even then asserting his command of a political machine that extends far back along the canal banks and into the meanest jukes. At picking time, for the harvesting of crops that couldn't wait, the constables and sheriffs of Mr. Pepper's back country rounded up the Negroes and invited them to work the crops at the going wage, which was not luxurious even by the standards of the swamps. If they refused, they were subject to arrest as vagrants and would work on the road gangs for nothing.

What now has Bilbo done in Mississippi that hasn't been done there and elsewhere in the South, ever since a desperate people rebelled against an earlier generation of carpetbaggers and scalawags in a situation now being repeated, for God only knows what eventual result, in Germany? And what has been his crime, except the exercise of a nasty disposition that he was born with, and no worse, surely, than many another in the party of humanity?

TO ACCUSE him as a grafter, exploiting the power and influence of his office for private gain is to repudiate the holy example of others.

He is but one of a whole gallery of sticky-fingered imposters whose names will soon be coming into view now that the Republicans control the committees and have the power to examine the income tax returns.

THE total repudiation of Bilbo as a regular, organization Democrat was dictated not by honest motives but by the Communist organization in New York and the hypocrisy of fakers in both parties who would be Bilbos themselves in the same circumstances. Mississippi, a Democratic state, which elected him, certainly cannot be said to have taken that means of disowning the man.

He was good enough for Mr. Roosevelt when he was first elected on the understanding that here was an acorn-eater as low and rough as Huey P. Long who would fight Huey his own way and keep Huey from invading Mississippi to defeat Senator Harrison.

AS THE filibuster started, Senator Overton, of Louisiana, met Senator Brewster, of Maine, in a hall and stopped to gossip. Brewster was next on the list to be sworn

Auto Union Drives  
Against Racial  
Discrimination

Operates Department  
For 'Fair Practices'  
For Race, Creed, Color

DETROIT, Jan. 25 (AP)—Along with its pay scale battles the CIO United Auto Workers Union is conducting a practical drive on an allied front to combat racial intolerance.

The big union, one of America's largest units of organized labor with a membership of 850,000 auto factory workers, is operating a new "fair practices and anti-discrimination" department.

The UAW, whose membership embraces virtually every race and nationality, claims to be the only labor union with such a set-up on a national basis.

In operation formally since last October, the union's new office was created by order of the last convention. Red-haired Walter P. Reuther, union president, is director. A chunky, affable Negro, William Oliver, 31, former sweeper in a Ford Motor Company plant, is co-director.

Fight Tolerance

Both say the UAW regards "fair practices" and "non-discrimination" as basic union concerns. Oliver and his aides cite case after case in which they say the union came out the winner in fights for tolerance, both within the union family itself, where the prejudice of member against member was overcome, and in formal relations between the UAW and company managements.

With the advent of the fair practices department, Oliver says the UAW hopes to carry on its program still more effectively. He says the UAW is the only union with a "defined procedure" for settling discrimination cases.

Any member—white or Negro, Jamaican, Mexican or Indian—has the right to seek redress from discrimination from his own local union superiors and to appeal to the international union.

The union's constitution provides the "extreme penalty"—expulsion—for violation of union laws. Although no instances of this sort have been reported, the union's anti-discrimination rule is enforceable by expulsion.

Union Committee

Each union local has a fair practices and anti-discrimination committee. It is directed to "promote fair employment practices and endeavor to eliminate discrimination affecting the welfare of the individual members of the local union, the international union, the labor movement and the nation."

In that connection, the auto union wrote into its original constitution that one objective was to "unite regardless of religion, race, creed, color, political affiliation, or nationality."

The fair practices' central office, situated on Detroit's tree-bordered Second Boulevard, functions with Oliver and a staff of three full-time, paid international representatives.

One of the latter is Nebraska-born Joseph Tuma, of Czechoslovakian descent, who talks of his union as "rigidly democratic." He says the fair practices department does a "real and practical job." Tuma's co-workers are Mildred Jeffrey, who is Irish, and Lillian Hatcher, a Negro.

Licked Problem

As Oliver tells it, the fair practices department works for "any Joe Doakes in the shop."

"We established a climate within local unions which is practically non-discriminatory," he said. "We've licked a heck of a lot of those problems now."

"White man or Negro—Jew, Catholic or Protestant, or whatever," Oliver said, "we try to make sure that they all get the same kind of treatment."

Most of the Negro-white prejudice, he said, is found in the border States of the North and South. Progress is being made there, however, he added.

Aside from racial problems, the Fair Practices Department also concerns itself with the woman worker. The UAW was a wartime champion of "equal pay for equal work" as regards women factory employes and it still campaigns on that line.

Pamphlets Used

The union pursues its anti-discrimination program by numerous pamphlets and cartoons

and through the radio, local forums and moving pictures.

Fighting racial prejudice, says Tuma, takes "just a little bit of decent courage, and you'd be surprised at the results."

Together, he and Oliver listed general UAW policy as:

- "1. No Jim Crow union locals.
- "2. No segregation in factories.
- "3. No 'lily white' elections.

(Places on union ballots are open to all.)

- "4. No separate seniority lists."

Oliver cited examples of the union's anti-discrimination operations.

In an Ohio plant which once refused to employ Negroes there are now "Negroes and white men working side by side," Oliver said. A factory in the East was talked out of a demand for separate Negro and white seniority lists.

Called In

One big UAW local which feared racial trouble "wanted us to come in and correct the situation," Tuma recalled.

This was done, he said, adding: "While we don't know whether we've eliminated all prejudices in our union, it's quite true now that the guy who has any at least keeps them to himself."

The Fair Practices Department intends also to take a vigorous part in campaigns to place fair practice laws on State statute books, Oliver said. The UAW has been particularly active in that endeavor in Michigan and California.

Another union fight is against the "restrictive housing covenant" under which property owners privately agree to forbid occupancy of homes by other than members of their own race.

Detroit, with its large Negro population and severe congestion problem, is a focal point for UAW efforts.

The UAW, interceding for a Negro family, asked the State Supreme Court to consider the union's record in its attempts to "eradicate prejudice or ill will."

"We venture to state," said the union's brief, "that the CIO has been the strongest and most effective single force in recent

years to effectuate equal rights and eliminate all forms of discrimination.

"In our union we have made our own law against discrimination and the results have been remarkably successful."

Course  
Jail 'MP' at Ft. Dix  
For Looting Bags  
Of Returning GIs

Ft. Dix, Jan. 31.—The FBI yesterday held in custody a former soldier charged with remaining at Ft. Dix four months after his Army release for the purpose of posing as a military policeman and stealing jewelry and souvenirs from soldiers' barrack bags.

Authorities identified the prisoner as James Curry, 22, of 710 Church street, Camden, S. C. His record, said authorities, includes 15 months in a South Carolina prison gang for burglary and seven months in an Army stockade for assaulting his commanding officer in Germany.

The prisoner put on an MP armband and engaged in a series of thefts from soldiers returning from overseas and awaiting discharge, authorities said.

Curry was arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Walter P. Petry, in Trenton, on charges of impersonating a military police officer and wearing an armband illegally. He was remanded to jail in default of \$1500 bail.